

REMARKS

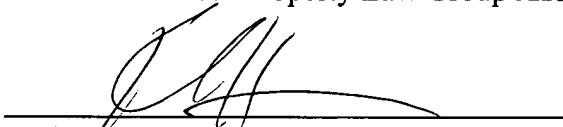
Claims 8-10, 20, 21 and 28 currently stand allowed.

Claims 22-27 stand rejected for the reasons of record. While Applicants strongly disagree with the outstanding rejection, claims 22-27 have been cancelled in order to expedite issuance of the allowed subject matter. Of course, cancellation of these claims is not, nor should it be construed as, an acquiescence to the rejections, and Applicants reserve the right to continue prosecution of these claims in a related continuation.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that claims 8-10, 20, 21 and 28 be passed to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

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